

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 153 without my signature.

This bill was amended late in the session and sent to me with only one hearing. Similar provisions were included in the 2004 budget trailer bills, without a hearing. Those provisions were invalidated by a superior court ruling. This bill will allow the Attorney General to cover all costs associated with investigations, expert witnesses and attorney fees in certain civil cases. Under the provisions of the bill, it may be possible to allow the Attorney General to hire private law firms to bring the lawsuit. The court's action provides us a second chance to decide the impact of these provisions on California's business climate.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger